

Office of the State Fire Marshal

A Bureau of the Washington State Patrol

Celebrate Legally Fireworks Enforcement Campaign

Model Procedure for Safe Seizure, Transportation and Storage of Fireworks

The purpose of this procedure is to provide information and instruction for the handling of confiscated fireworks and/or the seizure of illegal explosive devices (IED's).

The Police Department (PD) will be the lead agency regarding enforcement of laws pertaining to fireworks and illegal explosive devices. However, fire department operations may encounter situations where confiscation of fireworks is necessary for public safety, for example, unsupervised children playing with fireworks or discharging state illegal fireworks sold on tribal lands.

In jurisdictions where fireworks are not banned or restricted, state law allows for the sale, possession and use of state legal fireworks from noon on June 28 to 9:00 p.m. on July 5. Sale, possession, use or discharge of any fireworks is prohibited in (insert jurisdiction), except where authorized by permit (insert municipal or fire code reference).

1. Confiscation of Fireworks

- Consumer fireworks confiscated from individuals shall be placed in paper bags and sealed with a copy of the inventory tag, citation or other documentation attached to the outside of the bag. *Note: Plastic bags should not be used. Static charge from the plastic bags can ignite flash powder used in some fireworks.*
- Caution should be taken to ensure that different lots of fireworks belonging to different individuals do not become mixed (maintain individual units).
- A copy of the documentation should be left with the recipient, and a copy sent to appropriate enforcement official to arrange for disposal of the seized fireworks.

2. Store in Day Box

- Specified vehicles are equipped with an approved day box or magazine that is suggested for the transport of specific types of confiscated fireworks to the storage location.
- Officers may call for a day box as needed.
- Each day, the on-duty officer will evaluate staffing and determine where the day box will be located.

3. Transport to Fireworks Storage Area

- Whenever 1.4G consumer fireworks are confiscated, the Officer in Charge shall take action as directed in the table titled "Transportation of Fireworks or Illegal Explosives". These procedures shall be strictly followed. Never allow IED's to be stored in the fireworks storage area.
- Fireworks shall be transported to the storage area as soon as possible.
- Fireworks should not be stored at Fire or Police Stations outside of a day box, if possible.
- If consumer fireworks are confiscated, the Officer in Charge shall issue a civil infraction or citation citing the violation. The citation shall include the following information:
 - Incident number, if applicable.
 - Description and quantity of what is being confiscated.